september 16, 1999

crown

volume 17 issue 1

REDEEMER COLLEGE LIBRARY

CROWN - REDEEMER COLLEGE
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SEP 23 1999

Another Year of Building on God's Promises

Dr. Justin D. Cooper
President

Welcome to campus! We're delighted that you're here to begin or return to your university studies. And we trust that you've had a refreshing and enjoyable summer, working or traveling or getting in some extra study. It's exciting for us to have students back again, making the campus the bustling place we all enjoy so much.

While you've been away, much has also happened at the College to help make it an even better place to pursue a Christian university education. Last year the Lord opened the door to our full recognition as a Christian undergraduate university. Now we have been able to open our doors to an influx of 100 more students than last year, helping us reach a record enrolment of about 575 FTE students and swelling our residences to full capacity.

We're very thankful that an increasing number of students are embracing the vision of a Christian liberal arts and sciences education. And we praise God for his blessing and faithfulness, which is launching this institution into a new phase of growth and development, so that we can become an even more effective witness to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the area of university education in this province.

Such growth has required and made possible several other changes which you may have already noticed, some of which are still in the process of being completed. I'm sure you will quickly see many of the renovations to our facilities which have been completed in the academic building (some are still in progress) and in the residences. We are also making important changes in the area of information services.

In the academic building we have upgraded the rear entrance, expanded the offices in the student life area and in the main office, and added offices for part-time instructors in room 223. Desks and chairs have been replaced in several classrooms. All this will enable us to serve you better! In the residence area, general renovations and another round of new kitchens have been completed. Security phones are still in the process of being installed. In library and information services, we have made a number of improvements. New study carrels, which should arrive shortly, will improve study conditions and expand the amount of study space available. The number of computers and seating in the computer lab is again being expanded and the equipment upgraded. You should notice improved operation and printing.

And some exciting news—this summer we were able to conclude an agreement with a new internet provider which will allow faster internet communication and, very importantly, will allow our off- campus students to have the same access to our campus network and library as users in the residences. We are working with our new provider and hope to have this service in place by the end of September. We have also made provision for a faster means of linking our residence users with the campus network.

Behind the scenes we have been busy planning for campus development over the next number of years, and particularly, for the addition of more residences, to be built on the back campus next spring. With student input on various committees, we have developed a provisional design for three storeybuildings with apartments to preserve the style of community living that we currently have in the townhouses. Plans for campus development and for the residences will be made available as they are completed.

We also continue to be busy lining up support for all these projects from a supporting com-

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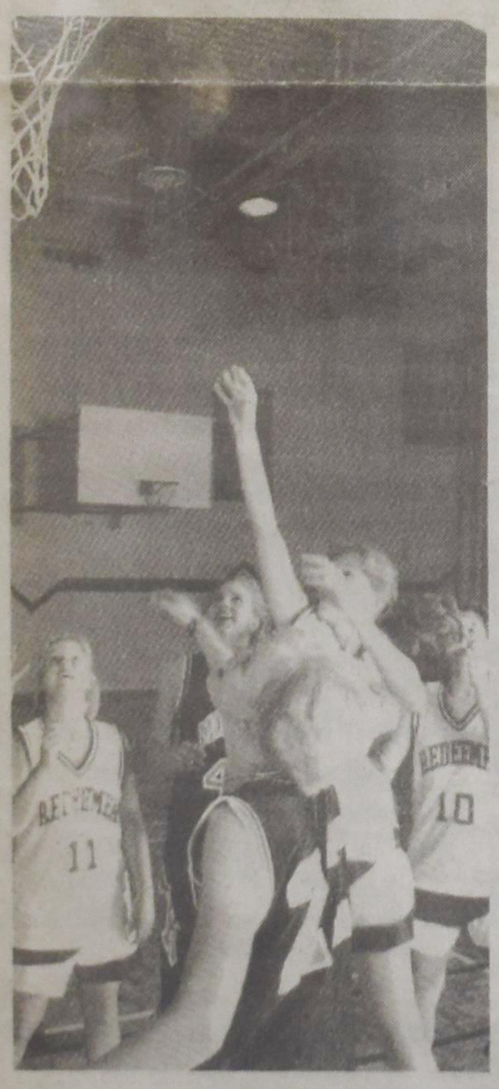
A sports editor for the *crown* is still needed, interested people email crown@redeemer.on.ca Partners may apply.



CHRISTIANS FOR CHANGE

by joe haveman

No! I have not changed. But I am pretty sure that I better understand these feelings that I have. Those feelings of resentment towards a violent society. The feelings of anger I have towards it's governing authorities for their failure. The more my world view matures the more tears come to my eyes. Humanity has corrupted creation without remorse.

Without remorse? What do I mean by that, you ask yourself? I'll explain by giving an example.

I was talking to a girl last week about my world view. I was trying to put my anarchistic feelings into a context of how I am a Christian. I tried to explain how and why I don't trust faceless organizations and corporations controlling my life. I spoke of how I can not trust power forced upon myself involving no personal relationship. Authority that takes but doesn't give. I spoke of injustice and hatred. Lies and propaganda. Bias's and coverups. Fear and brutality.

When I finally took a breath and allowed her to speak she gave this response which almost seemed vulgar. Like it grabbed my left arm (my writing hand) and tried to bite it off. She admitted that everything seems to be going more and more foul, but did not like to think about it. "I would rather watch my t.v. for hours and hours than give myself a mental breakdown trying to think about the problems of the world."

So what! Big deal! The problems don't affect you! You like your t.v. and want to do whatever you please. I argue that everyone is so afraid to admit that they are oppressed they make it all that much easier for the oppressor to get away with evil. People would really rather be bought and sold than admit that they are slaves. Welcome to a brave new world.

What was I to expect? I think that I probably view the world in a different context than the average Redeemer Student. Many Redeemerites take their great homes for granted. I grew up fast. I didn't get everything I wanted. I didn't grow up in the Christian School system, I turned to God because I couldn't turn away from him any longer. I couldn't handle life on my own anymore.

We are products of our childhood. If my mother taught me one thing it was to fight no matter how bad the odds were, but to choose my battles wisely. I watched my mother accomplish things that society said a single mother should not be able to do. I want to be the same. But my battles are larger than life issues.

I believe that Christians are despised and hated. I believe that the police protect the rich who make the

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INSIDE:

Reflections on the Arts
by MaggieVandermeer

Jambo!
by Shamalla

Opportunity Knocks!
by Ken Dryfhout

al bick- editor

Have you ever had to write an editorial? Its not something I recommend. Not only are you expected to have an opinion about something, but you are to have a strong, relevant opinion that you can discuss rationally and fluently. It's not easy. Try it. Take an opinion of your own and condense it to 500 words. Make it serious enough to warrant discussion, funny enough to have everyone read it to the end. The grammar has to be impeccable, the style crisp.

You then have to publish it, putting this opinion in front of all, leaving yourself open to critique and attack. And those who get past the first two lines will attack it. "It was too worldly, too light, too serious, too funny, you missed a comma splice." And you're expected to do this again. And again. And again.

To make matters worse, I'm kind of looking forward to it. It's only gonna last for 12 measly issues, and editorials are the best place to start rebellions among the populace. I've got a serious partner in crime, the fastest routes to the nearest Tim's plotted out, and C.D.'s stacked beside the radio.

All that aside, if you're a masochist, have I got a job for you.

angela reitsma - editor

And the student newspaper shall be "CROWN." We work with what we're given. The student newspaper; a paper for the students and by the students and, almost always, about those students. Poke around for what interests you, figure out what other people are thinking and doing and talking about. We're the official student publication of the Redeemer campus, a mirror of life for the average student. We want to catch the opinions flying around, warn you about the cascade of events soon to erupt, and discuss what affects or concerns or incites you. Life, the universe, and everything. So enter stage right, and cue semester one. Welcome to the crown.

letter to the editors

Dear Students:
Welcome back to another year of learning, another year of discoveries. Another year of training in Christ's Army. Society is almost so far gone that only Christians can give blood for transfusions, most others are tainted with drugs, HIV, Aid's etc. Also in politics you can see the same perverseness. How does the Liberal Government create policies concerning justice, the unborn, the family, the tax-burden. How are they spending tax money? You can name more. It becomes more and more imperative for Christians to rule the country. That's why the CHP needs young students. The CHP is the only party that acknowledges the Supremacy of God Almighty and wants to rule accordingly. Don't be fooled with the Reform Party. They want to team up with the Progressive Conservatives. We need Christian Young People to stand up for Canada with the Lord's Blessing. That's why we hope to see many young people at the CHP all Ontario meeting, to be held in Redeemer College on Sept. 18, 10 a.m. in the board room. One point on the agenda is the forming of a Youth Caucus. Greetings in Christ, Hogie (Peter) Hoogendam

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laws. I believe that corporations manipulate us for our money. I believe that freedom is a control variable to distract us from reality. I believe that Christians should not conform to this society's lies, but they do.

I want to educate people so we can stand before it's to late. If the government can make excuses to bomb every Muslim nation that sneezes it can't be hard for them to create a reason to shoot us on the streets. Then the words God gave to John will come to pass with persecution and pestilence.

I don't believe that totalitarianism and brutality exists only in other countries or in history books. When I see a police car I am reminded of some grim moments in my life. The bruises on my friend Greg when the city of Montreal decided that people could no longer sleep in a park. I think of an August night I spent bleeding on a jail cell's floor because the cops thought that I was drinking when I got into a car accident. They yelled and curse at me. I prayed for help. The power in this world is no power at all, were the words in my heart. I thought, go ahead, beat me.

Do you know what it's like to be at the bottom of the of the social cannibal chain? To be called a scumbag everywhere you go because you need a squeegee to provide meals. Have you needed the mercy of others to survive daily?

Has anybody tried to kill you for what you believe? I'm not afraid, and it has come up. We Christians thrive on comfort. If we have to eat second rate food we cry as though God has left us. We are so busy worrying about ourselves and our tiny spiritual dilemmas that we forget about how sick creation has become. Not because of the secularization of the west, modernity, evolution, homosexuality or abortion. It happened because Christians let it happen.

We live pathetic lives. Living in strict obedience so that our fellow church mates won't know the evil that lives in our hearts. Why has society turned so dark? We were filling our silos and barns instead of being provided for by God. Well I spit on my possessions. All of them. My mattress, my ragged old clothing, the stereo that I built. I spit on all the tapes I dubbed, my old skateboard, my rusting bass guitar, and the un-tuneable classical guitar. I spit on them all. My humble garbage, the lust for which has allowed North America to become an undercover fascist dog kennel. Self gratification, the most absolute method of control.

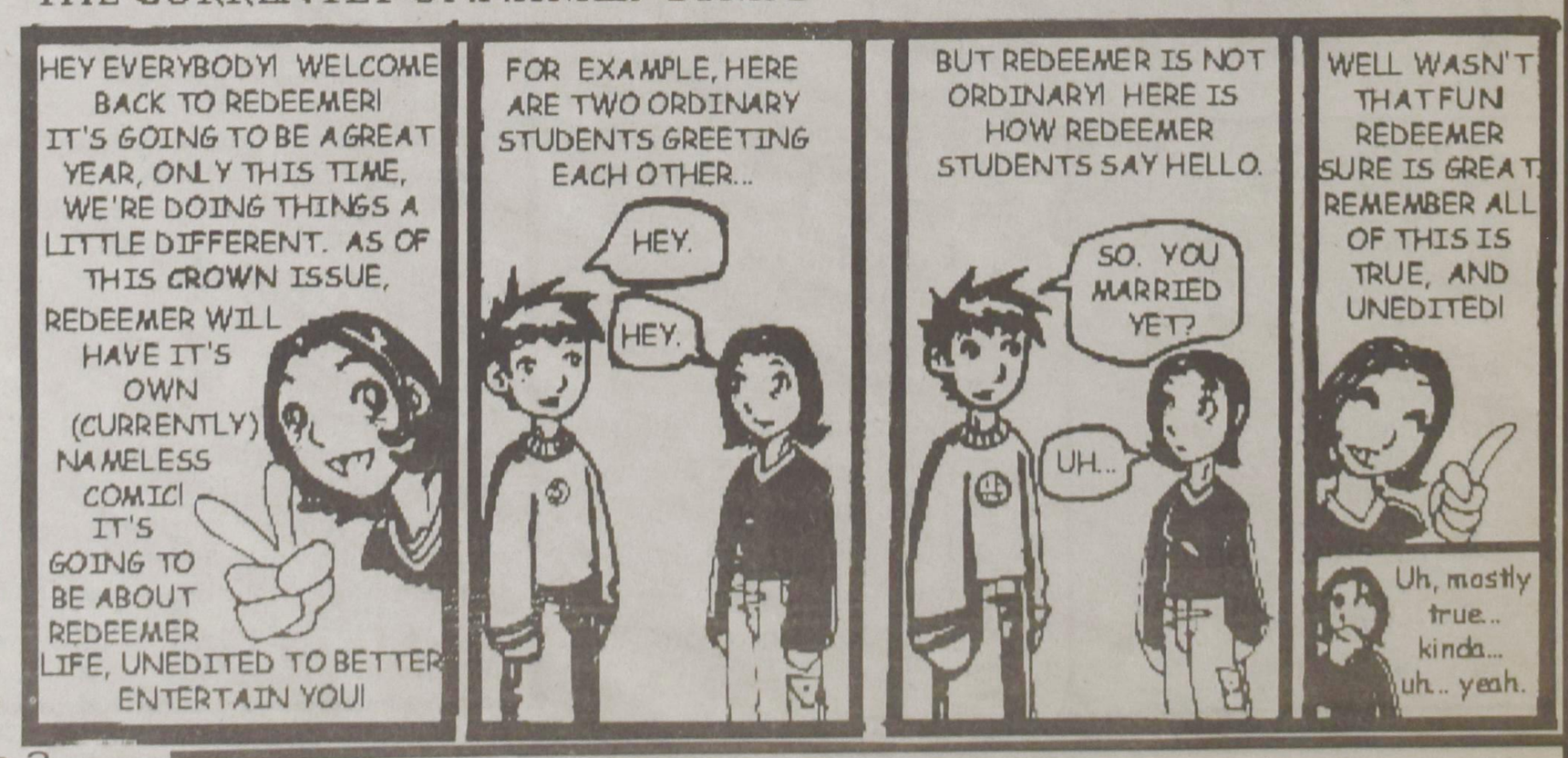
Christians are so busy being content that they put up with evil. Opiate of the masses, Marx called our faith. It makes me want to tear my robe and put ashes on my head.

I'll still write my off the wall articles but this time I no longer tell you that the world has gone rotten. I plead with you to shut your t.v.'s off and think for yourselves, to admit that you are oppressed. That someone out there either wants you to fail, or to only succeed for their benefit. If everyone could do just that the world would change.

To another interesting Redeemer year. I look forward to being the opinions page editor. It is a great blessing. Cheers!

THE CURRENTLY UNNAMED COMIC

Faith Hicks



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When exploring the unknown, you do not know what you are talking about. - Einstein

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Letters to the editor may be edited for brevity and clarity and will be printed as space permits. Anonymous submissions will not be published, unless we want to. Submissions for the next issue must be received by October 7, 1999.

Subscription enquiries may be addressed to the crown.

Spelling slips and grammatical gaffs are purposely placed for the perfectionist to point out.

Reflections on the Arts

by maggie vandermeer

The arts provide us, as Christians, with a valuable and important area of study. It's in paintings and stories and songs that people bare their souls. True art is an honest expression of what the artist believes and feels. What better way, then, to learn about human nature and culture than to study the arts? As Christians we believe that every person has an innate knowledge of and yearning for God. We can see the truth of this statement when we look at mythology, literature, music, art, and movies. If you buy a new CD, read the lyrics and you might make an interesting discovery. In the song "Crown" on Collective Soul's new CD *Dosage*, Ed Roland sings:

Who's gonna be my savior
Now that I've learned to believe
Who's gonna be the answer
to all of my questioning
well I hope I'm not lost
but I think that hope is now
distancing
and the words that secure a thought
are now faint whisperings

I find it sad in a way to read something like that, but at the same time, it shows me that while our culture is defiantly secular, people still need and search for God. But let's not pretend that we, as Christians, have all the answers. It's very tempting to think that Christian art should be about showing people the right way. I've found that some of the most moving Christian literature, music and art is that in which the artist is struggling with some problem or searching for truth. Isn't that what we find in much biblical poetry? Christian artists have an obligation to be honest, not to present the life of a Christian as all roses and sunshine. Here at Redeemer we have many opportunities to take in the Christian art of students, faculty and visitors. We should take advantage of these opportunities because they can teach us about ourselves and others and what works as Christian art and what doesn't.

So, it is for the dual purpose of discussing our culture (including pop culture) as manifested in the arts, and for providing artists at Redeemer with feedback on their work, that I would like us to use the Arts section of the Crown this year. In addition, I'd like the Arts section to be a place of lively (and civil) discussion on various issues related to the arts and culture. So, please respond to articles written by myself and others.

To get the discussion started, I'd like to return to a subject which has been much debated but never, in my opinion, satisfactorily resolved. The topic I'm referring to is the issue of what is appropriate for Christians to watch, perform, read, write, listen to, look at, and depict. I find this to be an extremely difficult question to answer. The argument seems to be one that goes on and on — with biblical proof-texts on both sides. My problem is that I see both sides of the argument as having valid points, and it leaves me wondering if this question will fall prey to the grasp of postmodern relativism because it appears to be just a matter of opinion, or if there is some definitive answer we can give. But then maybe the problem is that we're looking for the wrong kind of answer. Maybe we shouldn't be looking for a set of rules and guidelines which we can apply to every piece of art we encounter or create. It seems to be a common desire for people to want guidelines and rating-systems by which to live and make decisions and judge others. In the extreme this can lead to a kind of laziness in which we no longer feel the need to discern and engage our minds and consciences. We turn into sponges that absorb everything that is poured out as long as it falls under a G-rating. In my opinion, this is where the real danger lies. There might be temptations for a person watching an R-rated movie, but that person may very well have an extremely well-developed moral conscience and will not only be able to detect the blatant evil, but also that which is more subtle such as a strong underlying humanist message. That person will be able to walk away from the movie with a new understanding of a dominant and blatantly unchristian philosophy of our day. On the other hand, you might have one of those sponge-like people who goes to a G-rated movie, avoids the blatant evils, but soaks in the humanist message which is not warned against in the rating system. My point is not that we should all go see R-rated movies. I'm simply trying to illustrate the fact that the issue of what is "appropriate" is much more complex than it at first appears to be. What is appropriate depends on many factors: your age, maturity-level, spiritual-life, conscience, personal history (different people are tempted by different things), and ability to discern, as well as the people you may be watching, listening, or reading with. The matter is further complicated when the Christian is the artist and has to take his or her audience into consideration. Can we realistically and fairly ever hope to make general rules for our interaction with art when there are so many factors to consider? Do we need to, or would we be better off discussing each case individually, engaging and sharpening our critical minds and our understanding of the world around us?

JAMBO!

by shamalla

Welcome back everyone! I

Welcome back everyone! I hope you are all excited, happy to be back, and having a wonderful time in the Lord thus far. I would especially like to welcome all the first year students. I am sure a lot of us have noticed that this year's group is special in so many ways. This past week I have had the opportunity to meet some of you, and I have been challenged and even amazed by your spiritual zeal and joy. My prayer, not only for you but for everyone, is that your time at Redeemer will ignite your fire, and that you will grow to a much deeper spiritual level by the end of this year.

I am Masitsa Shamalla, Leah for those challenged at remembering African names, but Shamalla or "Hey You!" are preferred and perfect for all times. I come from Kenya, which is on the Eastern end of Africa, and I am a second year student with a double major in Psychology and Business.

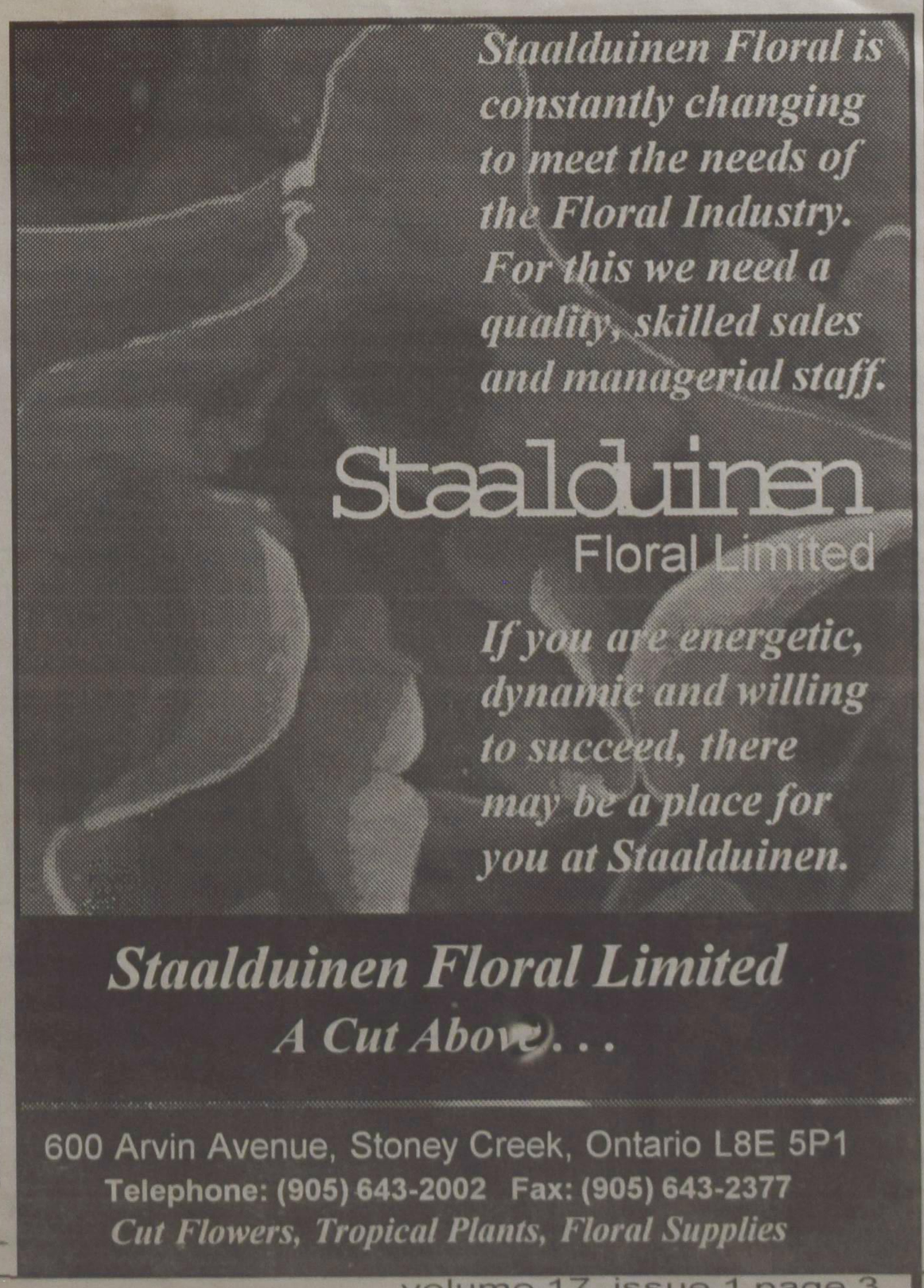
I will be one of two crown spiritual sub-editors for this year, and I am very excited about this position. I know there are challenging lessons ahead of me and great things in store for us, and I consider it a privilege to have this opportunity to serve God and you in this capacity. Psalm 16:6 is a song of praise from David to God in which he cries out '*The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance*' (KJV). I know each of us has a testimony of God's faithfulness in our lives up to this point, some more dramatic than others, and I believe we are yet to see a greater revelation of His power and faithfulness this year.

It is my hope that, together with other contributors, we will be challenged in our faith and encouraged to view our friendship with God in new and exciting ways. These new insights will open us up to His will for our lives.

...continued from pg.1.

munity which prays for us and contributes donations to help operate the College and to fund special projects such as residence construction. Businesses, churches and members and friends of the College provide significant dollars to help make a quality Christian university education available at Redeemer College and provide scholarships and financial assistance to students. Their donations, totaling over $2.5 million in 1998-99, also helped us operate with a balanced budget again last year.

As you can see, we've had a busy and exciting summer here at the College. There are many evidences of the Lord's hand of blessing, for which we give thanks. And as we make our plans to build for the future, it's exciting to be able to do so in the knowledge that our God will continue to guide and bless us. May we all work together to use the Lord's gifts and blessings to enhance the Christian learning and sense of community which are our hallmarks. And may all the glory go to our faithful God, who always remembers his promises.



spiritual issues

opportunity knocks
by ken dryfhout

What opportunities lie in our paths!! Here we are at the beginning of a new school year. For many, it is the beginning of a new school. As the overwhelming feeling of moving, meeting new people and getting settled begins to fade, we stand, facing eight months, eight blank months, known fully only by the creator and perfector of all things. What the Spirit could work in our lives during this time is inconceivable, we can't even begin to imagine the possibilities of God's amazing, intricate plan. Many have gained a clean slate, a fresh start as they enter a new atmosphere. In eight months we have the chance for new relationships, new scholastic goals, new devotional commitments, new expressions of the heart in worship, new churches, new challenges, new changes, a new heart. WOW!! That's a lot to take in.

In the midst of so much opportunity there are many walls that the enemy wishes to throw in your path. His goal for this year is simple; to rob you of the new things that the Lord yearns to give to you. His goal is simple but his tactics are innumerable. A couple things to remember to keep the enemy from robbing you of opportunities. Don't listen to gossip, allow others to have a clean slate, remember that each person is an image bearer of Christ. We must pass on grace and forgiveness to those around us as freely as we have received it. What is in the past of those around you is of no importance to you. If anything those who you hear gossip about are in need of a non-judgmental, loving friend stepping into their life most of all.

So, what does this have to do with anything? We are all on common ground here. We are on a journey pointed in the same direction, towards freedom in Christ and the Spirit. There is no room for walls between us. Paul writes to the church in Corinth, *For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be... I fear that there may be quarrelling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.* (2 Corinthians 12:20). There is no room for gossip, division and dissension. The above list is not what God wants from this community at Redeemer. In fact, those are the things we should be striving to avoid. In John Jesus prays that all believers *may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.* (John 17: 20b-21). By giving our everyday to the Lord, by giving our every moment to His leading, the Lord can move us further and further into this unity. Through surrendering to Christ and smashing dividing walls we will experience incredible blessing. Furthermore, and even more exciting is that our unity will point to the unity of the triune God. It will be an awesome testimony to the world outside Redeemer that our God reigns and can do more that we can imagine when we give full control to Him. When we throw off the fear of what might happen to us if we give up control. When we throw off the stubbornness which makes us cling to so-called-freedoms which are actually holding us captive. When we throw off pride and realize that, along with all other people, we are broken vessels, cracked pots, needing the full restoration of Christ - then, God's name will be glorified through the testimony that will bring to the world.

This one small Christian University in the remote town of Ancaster can shine brighter that a star and effect the world. It is time that we realize that. Let us seek the Lord's face eagerly, as if thirsting like a man who has not drank for many days. Let us feed on the Word of God, let us worship constantly. There is no room for division among this community. There is only room for the Spirit as it pours out more and more and more filling all the spaces and cracks and spilling over and out from this place.

We were created to praise the Lord so ,this year, let's just praise the Lord. Let's allow Him to take our every day and use it. No matter what, no matter the circumstance, or the place. God wants to pour out freedom and blessing on us we only need to receive it for what it is. Not a blessing that we horde and keep to ourselves, but a life that shines for Christ in constant humility and giving. It is a hard place to go, but the ultimate goal of all those who want to get to the best place.

We are all at different places in our Christian walks. Some feel more ready for more and more submission to God than others. However, none of us are "spiritually superior". We need to work together, walk together. We need to step into the all-encompassing joy that the Spirit of God has for us and praise the Lord. Let us lift His name together. Let us praise Him in moments of triumph. Let us praise Him in times of change. Let us praise Him in deep sorrow. Let us praise him today and every day. Eight months we have together. Oh the opportunities.

next issue:

FROG OLYMPICS

the backside

randy elzinga

Welcome to the backside. You've made it to the end of this ever-so-long publication. By now I'm sure you're asking yourself, "When does this get good?" Unfortunately I can't answer that question, nor can I guarantee that you will say to yourself after having read this page "Ahhh, this is where it gets good!!!" The backside is the place where you go to get a laugh. Of course, as in all things in life, you need to put some work into it. A major feature of the backside is the quotes. We've all said things that just came out wrong or blurted out something that sounded a lot better in our head and let's face it, some of us are just funny people. This is the part where you come in. You see, I can't hear everything that's funny–e-mail forwards are acceptable if they are really funny. So what you need to do for me is :
1. Remember everything funny that you hear people say. 2. Write it down as soon as possible. 3. Send it to me at your earliest convenience via ICM or e-mail backside@redeemer.on.ca.
4. Cook for ten minutes at 350 F. Enjoy.

A young ensign had nearly completed his first overseas tour of sea duty when he was given an opportunity to display his ability at getting the ship under way. With a stream of crisp commands, he had the decks buzzing with men and soon, the ship had left port and was streaming out of the channel. The ensign's efficiency has been remarkable. In fact, the deck was abuzz with talk that he had set a new record for getting a destroyer under way. The ensign glowed at his accomplishment and was not all surprised when another seaman approached him with a message from the captain. He was, however, a bit surprised to find that it was a radio message, and he was even more surprised when he read, "My personal congratulations upon completing your underway preparation exercise according to the book and with amazing speed. In your haste, however, you have overlooked one of the unwritten rules -- make sure the captain is aboard before getting under way."

Today's Stock Market Report

Helium was up, feathers were down.
Paper was stationary.
Fluorescent tubing was dimmed in light trading.
Knives were up sharply.
Cows steered into a bull market.
Pencils lost a few points.
Hiking equipment was trailing.
Elevators rose, while escalators continued their slow decline.
Weights were up in heavy trading.
Light switches were off.
Mining equipment hit rock bottom.
Diapers remained unchanged.
Shipping lines stayed at an even keel.
The market for raisins dried up.
Coca Cola fizzled.
Caterpillar stock inched up a bit.
Sun peaked at midday.
Balloon prices were inflated.
Scott Tissue touched a new bottom.
And batteries exploded in an attempt to recharge the market.